

Distance Learning and TJ21

August 22, 2011

Chancellor Glenn DuBois

VCCS Distance Learning

- Students flocking to distance learning courses
 - Provides flexibility in scheduling
 - Various modalities – hybrid, fully online
- Expands palette of course offerings
- Hybrid as well as fully online

By the Numbers

- More than 135,000 students taking one or more distance courses
- Two out of five students enroll in a distance learning course
- One-fifth of FTEs generated through distance learning courses

Consortial Programs

- Distance delivery assists in leveraging resources and efficiencies across the state
- Two Examples:
 - Appalachian Tri-College Nursing Program (AAS in Nursing) – Virginia Highlands CC, Southwest Virginia CC, Mountain Empire CC, since 1976
 - Veterinary Technology Program (AAS in Veterinary Technology) – Blue Ridge CC delivering to Tidewater CC, Germanna CC, John Tyler CC, and Virginia Western CC

Distance Learning as a Shared Service

- Innovative Program offered by Northern Virginia Community College – distance courses shared with other colleges to expand offerings
- Part of VCCS Reengineering “Rethink” Initiative
- Revenue sharing model
- Builds on NOVA’s extensive instructional design and student support capabilities through its Extended Learning Institute (ELI)

Not Without Challenges

- Student readiness to engage in distance learning
- Faculty oriented to teaching online
- Not inexpensive to deliver – technology intensive
- Uneven student access to distance across state
- Misperception that distance learning students don't use campus facilities

President John Broderick

ODU Distance Learning

- Part of ODU's mission since early 1990's
 - Advanced degrees tied to workforce development Statewide
 - In partnership with VCCS
- Leading distance learning provider in Virginia - 59 degree programs offered through Online and On-site learning network
- Extensive service area – Over 29,000 registrations in 2010-11 from over 40 states
- Distributed student service infrastructure in partnership with VCCS
- Robust technical infrastructure for on-site, online and mobile learning options
- Quality centric course design and faculty instruction

Existing ODU and VCCS Partnership

- In place for over 15 years
- Shared goals
 - Access for Virginians
 - Cost-effective learning solutions
 - Support local economic development
- Technical infrastructure in place
 - Bandwidth and Delivery infrastructure
 - Network of classrooms and learning locations
 - Technical support
 - Regional staff
- Student and faculty services and resources in place
 - Advising, proctoring and program planning/development

Joe DeFilippo, SCHEV
Director of Academic Affairs & Planning

Multi-Institution DL Models in Virginia

- CGEP (Commonwealth Graduate Engineering Program)
 - Collaborative graduate engineering program
 - 5 public university participants (ODU, UVA, VT, VCU, GMU)
 - Primarily delivered through video conferencing technology
- ECVA (Electronic Campus of Virginia)
 - Catalog of online courses available from 25 participating public and private Virginia institutions
 - “One-stop shop” to gather information on courses available
- 4VA
 - New initiative funded by 2011 General Assembly
 - Public-private partnership between GMU, VT, JMU, VT and CISCO
 - CISCO “TelePresence” technology used to link institutions

Multi-Institution DL Models in Virginia

- NOVA Extended Learning Institute (ELI)
 - Online branch of NOVA
 - Offers 35 full credentials online: 19 associate degrees and 16 certificate programs
- VCCS/ODU 2+2 (Teletechnet)
 - Collaboration between ODU and VCCS
 - Re-engineered and expanded in 2011

External, Dedicated Online Institution

Western Governors University (1995)

- Multi-state collaborative (19 US Governors)
- Separate accreditation (Regional and National)
- Embraces business entities as partners and primary consumers
 - » AT&T, Dell Computer, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Google, Lumina Foundation, Microsoft, Oracle, etc.
- Teachers College, College of Business, College of Information Technology, College of Health Professions (Nursing & Health Care Management)
- Accelerated degree programs (starts every month)
- Generous transfer credit evaluation
- Competency approach to education (“Show me what you know”)

Western Governors University- Texas (2011)

- Established by the state of Texas as a subsidiary of Western Governors University
- Customized for Texas – (i.e. M.S. degrees for licensed Texas teachers)

Advantages and Pitfalls of an External, Dedicated Online Institution

Advantages

- Affordable (WGU - Flat Rate Tuition –\$5,780 per 12 months)
- Available to students in all 50 states (including Virginia)
- Sustainability now proven

Pitfalls

- Competency approach limiting in terms of programs that can be offered
- May not work well for some learners
- Limited customizability to VA's needs and challenges
- Current program mix (Teacher Ed, Business, Info Tech, Nursing) light on STEM

Brokering Model- Virtual Universities

California Virtual Campus (formally "University"), Florida Virtual Campus, Michigan Virtual University, Kentucky Virtual University

- Other states' answer to WGU in late 1990s
- Intended to transform Higher Education within existing state systems- not as independent online institutions
- Not true "universities"- do not grant degrees, only serve as on-line catalogs for one stop shopping at a common website
- Each partner school is independent and programs offered are determined by the school

Advantages and Pitfalls of Brokering Model

Advantages

- Member schools already have technology, infrastructure and DL curriculum in place
- Each member school maintains its own identity
- Improved student access by aggregating programs from multiple institutions on one site

Pitfalls

- Requires funding for the creation and maintenance of Virtual University framework which houses the “catalog”
- Duplication of programs and technology at member schools
- Require viable, inherent funding which is not dependent on external factors (e.g., special state funding, voluntary certification fees from partners, grants, etc.)

“Brokering Plus” Model

Center for Adult Learning in Louisiana (CALL)

- Joint initiative between the Louisiana Board of Regents and the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)
- Piloted 2008, expanded 2010
- 17 online degree programs in accelerated or fast-track formats
- 10 public college and university members
- Supported by funding from the Louisiana Board of Regents
- Provides focused and centralized infrastructure
- CALL office Executive Director and Associate Director manage the Center's day-to-day operations
- Existing programs are modified to fit the CALL accelerated, online structure
- Once an institution develops a CALL program, no other member institution may offer that program in CALL
- Each institution contributes staff time to assist with CALL Center responsibilities

Advantages and Pitfalls of “Brokering Plus” Model

Advantages

- Some collaboration between schools (no duplication of effort regarding programs)
- Accelerated programs- faster degree attainment
- Heavily based on prior learning assessment- appeals to non-traditional students and veterans
- Central office helps provide training and manages day to day operations

Pitfalls

- Not a proven model
- Louisiana has already put out the call to expand and may offer Workforce programs beginning fall 2011
- Funding sources may dry up

A Dedicated Virginia Institution?

Two Possibilities

- A discrete, separately accredited institution
- A consortium of institutions (not necessarily required to have separate accreditation)

Advantages

- Customizability to VA needs and challenges
- Efficiency insofar as it can utilize existing coursework at VA institutions

Pitfalls

- Substantial cost involved in establishing a new centralized online entity.
- Virginia's inability to support creation of the Virginia Virtual University (V2U) in the early 2000's brings into question the Commonwealth's will to take this route.
- Without close coordination with existing institutions, risk of inefficiency as many institutions "go their own way" offering similar programming.

Partnership Approach

- Coordinated programming developed by cooperating VA institutions—retention of institutional identity to a high degree
- Utilize existing pipeline relationships
- Create new relationships involving sharing of educational resources (e.g., dual appointment of faculty) and academic support services (e.g., instructional technology infrastructures)

Advantages

- No need to create a new central entity
- Customizability to VA's needs and challenges
- Efficient use of existing resources, inter-institutional relationships and faculty
- Utilization of community colleges for the first two years of baccalaureate programs reduces student costs and promotes degree completion at the associate as well as the baccalaureate level

Pitfalls

- Relative lack of centralized control could make sustainability and, especially, leadership difficult

Andy Casiello
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Jennifer Lerner
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Virginia Market Analysis

- Highest Demand
 - Engineering
 - Education
 - Computer and Information Technology
 - Healthcare
 - Business
 - Criminal Justice

Note: Conducted in 2009 by Eduventures for ODU

Virginia Market Analysis

- Greatest job potential (Virginia)
 - Computer and Information Technology
 - Business Management
 - Accounting
 - Financial analysis
 - Engineering
 - Systems Administration
 - Counseling and Social Work (Human Services)

Note: Conducted in 2009 by Eduventures for ODU

VCCS and ODU Partnership

- Leaders in Distance Learning in Virginia (ODU and NOVA Extended Learning Institute (ELI))
- Partners for over 15 years
- 40 learning centers established across state (student services, on-site instruction, testing, labs, libraries)
- Invested in providing distance learning to citizens of the Commonwealth
- Established processes and infrastructure

VCCS and ODU DL Online Collaboration

Planned Activity

- Expand joint online degree opportunities (building upon existing articulated baccalaureate degree programs)
 - Program areas: Nursing, Criminal Justice, Human Services and Psychology
- Expand NOVA ELI's statewide shared services network online with other VCCS campuses

Student Populations

- Military and Dependents
 - Both NOVA ELI and ODU DL have been named Military Friendly in 2011 and in previous years
 - NOVA ELI and ODU are experienced providers
- Modern Traditional Students
 - Require flexible online degree opportunity to meet life demands
- Returning Students
 - Require convenient, cost-effective solution to complete degree
 - Require comprehensive services for assessment of prior learning

NOVA ELI and ODU DL Online Expansion

- Focus on ***accelerating*** available high potential online solutions within the Commonwealth
 - VCCS and ODU expand partnership to provide an agile, integrated online learning solution for the Commonwealth and beyond
 - Leverage established NOVA Extended Learning Institute (ELI) and ODU Distance Learning policies, practices and investments
 - Identify and share high demand courses among VCCS and four year institutions
 - Expand, over time, to include other VA colleges and universities as we grow

The Starting Point Statewide

- Create high-tech and high-touch opportunities
 - Optimize use of distributed community college learning centers and technical infrastructure in place across the state (VCCS and ODU existing assets)
 - Build upon extensive online student and instructional support services developed at NOVA ELI
 - Expand portable and integrated offerings (online, on-site and on mobile devices)

Goals

- Increased degree production
- Cost-effective, value-add solutions
- Commonwealth focus and control
- Serve new student populations using integrated approach
- Provide convenient and flexible learning opportunities
- Ensure a cost-effective, scalable solution for the Commonwealth and the students

Where Do We Go Next?

- Expand relationship to include other institutions and programs
- Scale solution and reduce cost
 - Enhanced articulation pathways
 - Accelerated programs
 - 3-year programs and 3 +1 agreements
 - Scale programs through course sharing
 - Non-traditional faculty roles

Virginia Partnerships

- **Advantages**

- Significant infrastructure in place
 - 40+ campus facilities
 - Existing partnerships and articulations
 - State focus
 - Scalable solutions
 - Willing and dedicated partners

- **Pitfalls**

- Some State support required for a true State focused solution

Chancellor Glenn DuBois

Concluding Remarks

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